

Memorandum



Date: December 10, 2004

To: Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss and Members,
Transportation Committee

From: George M. Burgess
County Manager

Subject: Transportation Committee Goals – Seaport

TC Supplement
Agenda Item No. to 1(E)1

Attached is the Seaport Department's monthly progress report in accordance with Commissioner Moss' request to submit an updated report of the goals and objectives at every regularly scheduled Transportation Committee meeting.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Johnson".

Assistant County Manager

SEAPORT

Goal #1: Maintaining market share and attracting new business.

Status: On the cargo side, the port finished FY 04 with an increase in total tons. As of the beginning of this fiscal year, port terminals are reporting heavy cargo activity. The Port is also gearing up for the arrival of its two new Super-post-Panamax cranes which, in addition to the resumption of the dredging to 42ft., will help attract larger vessels and therefore allow us the opportunity to increase cargo volumes at the port. Challenges for FY 05 will include the careful handling of vessel operations as the gantry crane area finishes its capital improvements as well as working with all stakeholders in addressing traffic/congestion issues.

On the cruise side, FY 05 is off to a positive start. The Port's busiest volume of cruise activity is during the winter season – October through May. This past month the Seaport welcomed several vessels back for the season along with a few smaller port-of-call visits. December will be noticeable with Carnival's new build, the *Carnival Valor*, arriving in Miami with year-round sailings to the Caribbean. Carnival has planned a series of inaugural events to welcome the vessel. Additionally in December, Miami will serve as a one-time port-of-call to the *Costa Allegra*. This is the first time Costa Cruise Lines will call in Miami as it is regularly homeported in Port Everglades. We are working diligently to attract new cruise lines and to also promote Miami as a port-of-call. Toward this end, the Seaport will be participating with the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau at the 21st Annual Winter Cruise-A-Thon trade show.

Goal #2: Advancing the Infrastructure Program.

Status: The Seaport Department has an active development agreement to construct 33 projects as part of the Port's redevelopment program. The Port has taken the assignment and is currently working directly with the architects/engineers and construction managers in the fulfillment of the remaining portion of the work.

This Fast Track Development Program which provides enhanced throughput capability to meet the demands of the cargo and cruise industries, is now 80% completed. Overall completion of this program is scheduled for July, 2005.

The Seaport Expedite Program for two (2) new cruise terminals (\$60 million) and multiple infrastructure projects (\$40 million), including crane electrification, marine mooring improvements, container yard development and INS lease improvements to cruise terminal 7. These projects have entered the GMP phase with each of the Construction Managers. The cruise terminals are scheduled for completion within 14 months and the balance of the projects is programmed for completion within an 18-month period. Additional projects in the early development stages include a new command and control center, a new cruise provisioning facility, facility renovations for Customs and Border Protection, and a new Parking Garage.

The Department has been successful in working with state and federal agencies to secure grant funds for security infrastructure projects. These projects are being integrated into the capital development program.

Also, as part of the Port's partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the USACE awarded a contract on September 30, 2004 to complete the Phase II dredging project to deepen an extended portion of Fisherman's Channel to a depth of 42'. The contract was awarded to Great Lakes Dredge and Dock. This will allow the Port to utilize a total of six wharfs at a draft of 42' versus the two current available wharves at same depth. Once completed, this improvement will enable the Port to attract and accommodate deeper draft cargo vessels and will assist with goal #1 as stated above. The Notice to Proceed (NTP) for this project is expected to be issued by the USACE mid-December.

A DERM Class 1 permit was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on September 9, 2004 that authorizes dredging of the berthing areas adjacent to the federal channel deepening portion.

Dredge material will be disposed at the Miami Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS) for this project. Permits are in place by the USACE for the federal channel, and are in the process for the associated berthing areas.

Goal #3: Agreeing on a feasible plan to improve traffic flow on and off Port.

Status:

On-Port: Within the Infrastructure Program, construction of a new road will ultimately separate cargo trucking from cruise traffic on the Port. In addition to being a new security measure, this separation of vehicles is designed to enhance traffic safety and ease traffic flow within the Port. Road construction is advancing at a fast pace with the new outbound cargo bridge complete. Overall, about 90% of the project work completed to date.

Off-Port: The primary route to and from the Port is from I-395 entering/exiting from N.E. 1st and 2nd Avenues. The first step the Port has undertaken in improving off-Port access is to perform road improvements on N.E. 1st and 2nd Avenues from I-395 to 5th and 6th Streets. These improvements include resurfacing, drainage, traffic signal improvements, and right-of-way acquisition (completed) for wider turning lanes for truck traffic. The Public Works Department, on the Port's behalf, has recently awarded the construction contract for these improvements.

The second step the Port has undertaken is to improve off-Port access to seek an alternate route to the interstate system. The Port will be responsible for road improvements along 5th and 6th Streets similar in nature to those being performed on N.E. 1st and 2nd Avenues. However, at this time this project has been put on hold per FDOT.

Also, the Department continues to work with the appropriate state and federal agencies to move forward with the Port Tunnel project. The FDOT is in the process of completing a reevaluation study which evaluated optimum construction methods for existing geophysical conditions.

Goal #4: Beginning the development process for Maritime Center (i.e. office space, hotel, restaurants, etc.)

Status: At this time, the Seaport Department has developed a maritime center mixed-use concept with preliminary site layouts as a working tool for further marketing and feasibility analyses.